

**WORK SESSION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
14010 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
5:00 PM – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016**

Minutes

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Lana Mook, Vice Mayor Joe Ramirez, Councilmember Roy Delgado, Councilmember Bob Jones, Councilmember Jack Palladino, Councilmember Lynn Selby, Councilmember David Shapera

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Silence Cell Phones & Pager

III. WORK SESSION

W1. Presentation of the City of El Mirage FY 2015/16 Annual Financial Report (Finance)

Assistant Finance Director Christy Eusebio introduced auditors from Heinfeld & Meech, Engagement Lead Officer Aaron Van Winkle, and Engagement Partner Mike Hoerig.

Mr. Hoerig explained that Heinfeld, Meech & Co. specialize in audits of governmental entities with offices in Tucson, Phoenix, and Flagstaff. Audits of various governmental entities in the State of Arizona include cities and towns, county governments, and special purpose governments and districts. They have been the City's auditors since 2006/07. With audit procedures complete the following reports were issued: Financial Statements (CAFR), Expenditure Limitation Report (ELR), and the report on internal control showing no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. No single audit was required for fiscal 2016. A HURF compliance letter and the governance communication letter (audit summary) were issued. The City will submit its sixth CAFR in 2016. The CAFR recap includes the Introductory Section with the transmittal letter and the Financial Section includes the Independent Auditor's Report, Management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), basic financial statements, notes to financial statements and combining section. There is also a statistical section. He addressed annual changes in various City funds and explained the impact of changes to PSPRS (public safety pensions) reporting.

Audit procedures include planning meetings with management, staff, and Councilmembers; review of Council minutes; documentation of internal controls; and application of analytical procedures to include prior year comparison and trend

analysis; review of cash and investment reconciliations; vouch, confirm and/or analytics on most all revenues; sample and review of payroll and disbursement transactions; yearend check of payables and receivables; detail tests of capital assets and long-term debt; sample and review of procurements for City requirements.

Deputy City Manager/Finance Director Robert Nilles reviewed the City of El Mirage FY 2015/2016 Annual Financial Report. Definitions refer to how the City operates. There are three enterprise funds which are the Water, Sewer and Sanitation Funds. Everything else goes into governmental activities, such as administration, maintenance of City owned buildings, and maintenance of streets and parks, etc.

Vice Mayor Ramirez stated Council has control on revenues with respect to tax rates and levy but Council does not control mandated PSPRS liability. Mr. Nilles confirmed the City will see increases in PSPRS that are both planned and in accordance with a very recent court decision.

Councilor Jones gave a special thanks to Mr. Nilles, his staff and the City Manager for their work on the budget and presentation to Council.

Dr. Isom stated staff has done very well to organize the financial information for Council; a now well established plan is followed to provide consistency.

W2. Discussion regarding Addendum #4 of the YMCA Landlord/Tenant agreement (Administration)

Dr. Isom reported that Councilors Selby and Shapera had questions about this agenda item and he deferred Mr. Nilles' presentation until they expressed their concerns.

Councilor Shapera stated he has concerns about this contract addendum. He asked if the YMCA has ever lived up to the agreement the City has with them, have they paid rents on time, or have they made a good faith effort to increase membership. He stated he believed the YMCA has 3,700 members but with the neighboring cities of Surprise and Youngtown to draw from, the membership should be higher. He does not believe they are doing what they need to do regarding membership stating some people in Surprise do not even know a YMCA exists in El Mirage. The City of El Mirage has a population of 34,000 and yet only 1,500 are members. He also believes taxpayers are over-subsidizing this program; the City is paying bonds and now being asked to pay salaries and not charge more than \$1.00 a month rent. If the YMCA has not done what they said they would, why is the City rewarding them by paying more? He further asked if any other West Valley cities are subsidizing the YMCA the way El Mirage is being asked to do. Rents were supposed to go toward paying off the bond. One dollar a month is not enough. Councilor Shapera does not feel we should be rewarding the YMCA for not providing the level of service previously agreed upon. He does not believe it is in the best interest of the City to pay a salary of \$50,000 for a private entity. If the City needs to have a Recreation Director, have him work for the City, but if they are an employee of the YMCA, let the YMCA pay.

Councilor Selby asked who wrote the addendum and who is responsible for the deletions on the addendum. He stated that a good landlord with good business sense

requires a quarterly financial report, yet this document does not require any financial rewards be given to the City whatsoever. The Council needs to know what the YMCA is doing to make necessary changes. He is concerned about the \$50,000 salary for a non-profit business. Councilor Selby thinks the original contract is broken and renegotiation is in order.

Deputy City Manager/Finance Director Robert Nilles reported the first Addendum to the original 2012 contract was in 2013 which added resident discounts and rates and addressed signage. Addendum 2 in 2014, included City employees in the eligible group for resident discounts and rates, changed the base rent, addressed Landlord and Tenant FF&E and provided a legal description, site plan, commencement date, and tax exemption. Addendum 3 in 2015 permitted qualified Tenant staff to operate specific City vans/buses to transport children. The proposed Addendum 4 in 2016 will change the base rent, clarify joining fee reimbursements, change the City's address, and provide Executive Director assistance. Mr. Nilles explained in depth the rent change proposal.

Mr. Nilles further reported that City Council authorized a Landlord Tenant agreement with the YMCA in 2012 to operate a City owned facility to provide health and wellness services to the Northwest Valley and the City of El Mirage. The agreement authorized the City Manager as Landlord to amend the agreement. The City Manager has faithfully exercised the authority delegated to him by the Council to improve the functionality and operation of the facility. Council also unanimously approved revisions to the procurement code in June 2016. A previously approved resolution of the Council was codified permitting the City Manager to direct select and enter into professional services that were believed to be in the best interest of the City. Although not required by code, the City Manager has notified the Council when professional services in excess of \$30,000 were authorized. This practice was implemented by the City Manager to maximize transparency and openness.

The City and YMCA recently met about facility operations and the Director position. The YMCA acknowledged it had been trying to "cut" its way to profitability as this facility was a concern to their financial well-being. Both the City and the YMCA agreed cutting services meant fewer opportunities for residents. Profitability by expanding services, rather than cutting services, was agreed upon but the YMCA lacks resources to expand. They have operated and maintained the City's recreation facility with swimming pool at a loss since the facility opened. This loss is absorbed by the YMCA, not the City. Operating losses would be even greater if the City managed the facility. The City benefits by helping to stabilize the partnership between the City and the YMCA.

To attract a qualified Executive Director, the City proposed to contribute \$40K annually and another \$10K in the form of an incentive program. The incentive pay is available only after submitting proof of progress across the following three matrices: increase in youth sports programming, increase membership sales, and increase annual fundraising. The City's Human Resource Director helped the YMCA draft the position description and the Mayor and Deputy City Manager sat on the interview panel. The new Director arrived from Florida and began work last

week. The YMCA reports they have already seen positive change at the El Mirage Branch.

Mr. Nilles continued by stating the rationale behind the \$50K annual contribution is simple, "finance." The City has saved millions in operation and maintenance costs since July 2014. If the YMCA leaves, the City would be faced with the decision to either operate and maintain the facility at a loss of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 annually, or close the facility and all operations. The City would still be responsible for paying debt service on a closed facility.

YMCA services are provided to youth, teens, adults and seniors. For a facility that is open 87 hours a week, City responsibilities would include \$99K for the Recreation Administrator (which was the cost as of FY 11/12), \$57K for 2 full-time and 1 part-time receptionists, a gymnasium staff, fitness instructors, special class instructors, lifeguards, and day care/watch, plus 11 holiday closures per year. There is no way the City of El Mirage could afford to provide the level of program that is presented by the YMCA which is responsible for the Executive Director and receptionist pay at \$8.05/hr. with no benefits.

At least twice during public meetings, the \$100K per year rent was identified as something that should not be counted on. Rent revenue is not in the budget. Voters authorized the construction of a recreation facility with a pool. These types of public amenities/services are not expected to operate at a profit, similar to a City's parks, senior center, library, police, fire, general operations, special events, courts, and streets, etc. Contracting with the YMCA has and will save the taxpayers millions of dollars.

Dr. Isom summarized why the City needs to partner with the YMCA. The \$100K is not something the City can reasonably expect as these types of facilities are always run at a loss. The previous YMCA leadership tried to cut their way out of deficit but it has not worked. The City wants the YMCA to be successful and he is very optimistic that this investment will see improvements and save taxpayers money. Councilor Delgado is the representative on the YMCA Board and can attest that the new Director appears to be very qualified who is very capable and bring new and fresh ideas. It is a no-brainer to pay \$40K with a \$10 incentive compared to looking at nearly a \$1M loss. This is a good business decision and will save taxpayer dollars.

Councilor Shapera stated all his questions were answered but feels the YMCA let the ball drop. He would like a little more data in six months. Mr. Nilles reported they are to meet regularly with the new management.

Dr. Isom commented the YMCA is a non-profit and he wants to continue to develop the relationship. He and Mr. Nilles will be sitting down with the YMCA Finance Department regarding the incentive program. There will be \$10,000 available after increases in membership, extension of youth programming and increased fundraising is demonstrated. Dr. Isom is working on developing this partnership with the new management.

Councilor Selby stated his questions were also answered but he still wants to see reports regarding revenues and expenses. He asked how much the YMCA Corp. put into this YMCA and Mr. Nilles reported budget for operations is about \$1.4M. Their loss was \$250K plus and that was with the corporate giving from the central location. He talked about projections to get to profitability and meet three identified goals. He then explained this new model may work at other YMCAs as well and provides for expansion and not cutting.

Dr. Isom is a little concerned about requiring specific reports in the Addendum stating the City has a Councilmember on the YMCA Board with access to reports and to help mutually benefit and nurture the partnership. Mr. Nilles reported the YMCA is as anxious to make this relationship successful as is the City.

Councilor Selby stated he, too, wants to see the YMCA be successful because he voted for this program. He doesn't want to be back next year discussing the same kind of give-away currently being discussed. Without reports, the Council won't know if they are doing what they said they were going to do.

Dr. Isom showed a slide regarding what they are doing now. He reported they are, in fact, doing what they said they would do, just not to the level desired. There are ongoing conversations between the YMCA and the City to insure success.

Mayor Mook summarized by saying the entire Council wants the YMCA to be successful. The bottom line is this facility is the second lowest rated in the system for donations and the City needs to help them become more self-sufficient. She reported that she is aware of some large businesses in Surprise being asked not to support the YMCA because the City of Surprise is wanting to have a Boys and Girls Club or some other similar facility. El Mirage needs to have someone on Board who knows how to generate donations; the City has been innovative in the past and this gives another opportunity to "make it happen."

Councilor Delgado stated he spoke to the new director about shortfalls of the previous manager and told the new director, Aaron, that he will help open doors for the new manager to make positive contacts. He believes Aaron will follow through with recommendations.

Councilor Jones reminded everyone that 501 organizations were not in existence in the past. He has served both in the public and private sector and while on the Board of the Dysart Community Center has seen struggles since the financial crash with donations dropping off by 75%. The City needs the YMCA as part of this community. He stated the City needs to support the YMCA and is optimistic for positive change with the new direction at the top.

Councilor Palladino stated the City Manager and staff answered his questions and this is best for the City as the City cannot afford to operate the facility.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Work Session adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
14010 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
FOLLOWING WORK SESSION – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016**

Minutes

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Lana Mook, Vice Mayor Joe Ramirez, Councilmember Roy Delgado, Councilmember Bob Jones, Councilmember Jack Palladino, Councilmember Lynn Selby, Councilmember David Shapera

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:49 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Silence Cell Phones & Pager

III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Citizens desiring to speak on a matter that IS NOT on this agenda may do so at this time. Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person and shall be addressed to the City Council as a whole. At the conclusion of the Call to the Public, individual City Council Members may (1) respond to criticism made by those who the matter be put on a future agenda.

Resident Pablo Ante spoke on behalf of the problems being encountered by the Pueblo Futuro HOA developed by Habitat for Humanity. He stated all the board members have resigned and they requested the City's help because they don't know who to go to or what to do at this point stating they do not have much money in their account. When asked by Mayor Mook how much money they had Mr. Ante stated they have approximately \$14K in the bank. They have sent letters to the Arizona Corporation Commission but they have not yet received a response.

Resident Heloise Ruiz, reported she agrees with everything Mr. Ante said adding that the difficulties have been hard on the residents. After the current Board President resigned all the other board members also resigned and she wants to make sure that somebody else can take over.

Mayor Mook spoke to the HOA members present by reading the following statement: "The City does not control the creation and/or operation of an HOA. In this case, the HOA is a requirement of Habitat for Humanity and the Lender. An HOA is a private entity. It operates separate and apart from the municipality. Your lender expected an HOA to be created and operated by the homeowners as part of your ownership and identified in your CC&Rs. The City cannot take over the HOA since the borrowers (you homeowners) have the obligation to have an HOA."

Mayor Mook then asked Attorney Robert Hall to comment and he stated the problem is clear and while an HOA problem, he will reach out to the legal community to see if there is a solution with possibly a volunteer or two. There are several different solutions available and he will check to see if there are a couple of attorneys to address this problem.

Resident Barry Knight addressed the Council about his concerns over the chickens his neighbor has stating he believed that even though legal to have chickens in the City, he also believes there are codes to address excessive noise and control health issues. He stated his neighbor is raising a large number of chickens, now has roosters and exposed grain also draws disease carrying pigeons who sit on top of his house in large quantities. He stated the City is beautiful and he wants to keep it that way. Mayor Mook took down his phone number and advised that someone from the City would contact him to address and correct this problem.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under the Consent Agenda will be voted on with one motion. If discussion is desired regarding any Consent Agenda Item, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

1. Consideration and action approving the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Monday, November 1, 2016. (City Clerk)
2. Consideration and action to approve the destruction of Personnel Records that have reached the end of their retention period as authorized under ARS §41-151.19. (Human Resources)
3. Consideration and action to approve the destruction of municipal construction documents that have reached the end of their retention period as authorized under A.R.S. §41-151.19. (Development & Community Services)
4. Consideration and action to approve the destruction of municipal financial documents that have reached the end of their retention period as authorized under A.R.S. §41-151.19. (Finance)
5. Consideration and action to approve the Annual Financial Report as an official record of the City of El Mirage. (Finance)
6. Consideration and action to approve Ordinance O16-12-12 adopting Codification Supplement Six (S6) to the Code of Ordinances for the City of El Mirage, Arizona and declaring an emergency. (Clerk)
7. Consideration and action to approve Resolution R16-12-26 prescribing amended standards of Financial Disclosure for Local Elected Officials pursuant to A.R.S. §38-545. (City Clerk)

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to approve all items listed on the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Councilor Palladino. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

V. REGULAR AGENDA

- A. Swearing In and Seating of three Councilmembers elected at the 2016 Primary Election for the term December 2016 – December 2020. (Clerk)

City Clerk Sharon Antes administered the Oath of Office to incumbent and re-elected Councilors Roy Delgado, Lynn Selby and David Shapera.

- B. Consideration and action to appoint the Vice Mayor pursuant to El Mirage City Code §32.041 – Vice Mayor following the 2016 General Election. (Council)

Mayor Mook nominated Joe Ramirez as the Vice Mayor.

Mayor Mook moved to approve the appointment of Joe Ramirez as Vice Mayor pursuant to El Mirage City Code §32.041; seconded by Councilor Palladino. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

- C. Consideration and action to approve Resolution R16-12-25 approving the form and authorizing the execution and delivery of loan agreement amendments for loan Nos. 920100-06, 920127-08, 910154-13 and 920227-13 with the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) from its revolving fund programs and authorizing the taking of all other actions necessary to the consummation of the transactions contemplated by such amendments and this Resolution. (Finance)

Deputy City Manager/Finance Director Robert Nilles introduced Greg Schwartz from Piper Jaffray.

Mr. Schwartz reported that the water and wastewater systems are now self-sufficient enterprises which prior to 2005 were subsidized by excise taxes. The systems are currently supported by combined user fees and charges and El Mirage's average cost for 5,000 gallons of water used is lower than the statewide monthly median and slightly higher than the municipal monthly average. He stated that \$50.8M was spent on system improvements on water lines, sources and treatment as well as wastewater lines, pumps, and treatment. The source of the funds was WIFA grants for \$1.1M, WIFA loans for \$26.8M (including refinancing of market debt), and system revenues of \$22.9M.

He then gave the history of the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) which as of 2016 is now known as the Arizona Finance Authority (AFA). The City's proposal to WIFA for July and August 2016 was to take advantage of low market rates and to refinance WIFA loans. WIFA had some concerns about their bonds and a counter proposal recommended waiving reserve requirements, prepaying five loans and partially prepaying one loan, using the \$3.2M of existing reserves for

prepayments which would represent a savings of \$509,065. In September the City countered with a compromise, however, AFA strongly encouraged El Mirage to accept the original WIFA counter-proposal and avoid AFA possibly tabling any action. Council Resolution R16-12-25 authorizes staff to amend WIFA loans, waive reserve requirements and pay four of nine loans.

Councilor Jones asked what the balance would be after paying some of the obligations and was advised by Mr. Schwartz that the balance would be slightly less than \$12M. He also inquired about the current interest rate and Mr. Schwartz stated it varies from loan to loan but the average is about 2.2%.

Councilor Delgado asked if this action would help delay the need for a Red Oak Study regarding raising water rates and Mr. Nilles replied the study may need to occur as planned but there would be a direct savings of \$325K which will help with the outcome of the study. Rates may not need to be raised as soon as expected or by as much with the action of this resolution.

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to approve Resolution R16-12-25 approving the form and authorizing the execution and delivery of loan agreement amendments for loan Nos. 920100-06, 920127-08, 910154-13 and 920227-13 with the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) from its revolving fund programs and authorizing the taking of all other actions necessary to the consummation of the transactions contemplated by such amendments and this Resolution; seconded by Councilor Jones. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

- D. Public Hearing, closure of public hearing, followed by consideration and action to approve Resolution R16-12-27 authorizing the City to submit two grant applications to Maricopa County Community Development Division for FY 2017/18 Community Development Block Grant funds, and to execute subsequent award agreements for the full reconstruction of "A" Street and funding support for a replacement Fire Pumper Truck. (Administration)

Grants Writer Janeen Gaskins presented the CDBG funding request for El Mirage FY 2017-18. The County Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) approved application guidelines in October with public services distributed to the County this year. A public hearing is required and grants are due December 8, 2016. The earliest funding release will be in July 2017. This grant request follows the City's grant policy for a request for two projects for approximately \$810,000.

Ms. Gaskins addressed the priority one project as the "A" Street Improvements which is in poor condition between Thunderbird Road and Myer Lane and will include 2,000 linear feet of pavement reconstruction. Curb, gutter and ADA ramps will be installed and necessary sidewalks will be removed and replaced. It is a City priority to address Council goals, CIP and street maintenance schedules. The City is seeking \$608,928 in CDBG funds with a \$40,000 match including in-kind staff design. This will improve safety for residents and save on maintenance and repairs.

Priority two is replacement of a fire department pumper truck. The current truck has reached useful life expectancy and is approaching 150,000 miles with more than 15 years of service. A new 1500 GPM Pumper would have a 500 gallon capacity with updated technology and equipment. Safety features would secure equipment and be in compliance with new NFPA standards. The City is seeking \$200,000 in CDBG funds with \$400,000 leverage from General Funds. This vehicle would improve safety for El Mirage with less down time for repairs, enable the department to respond to critical infrastructure and be a positive impact on the Automatic Aid, and be operationally compliant.

Mayor Mook opened the public hearing. No public comments were received and Mayor Mook closed the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to approve Resolution No. R16-12-27 authorizing the City to submit two grant applications to Maricopa County Community Development Division for FY 2017/18 Community Development Block Grant funds, and to execute subsequent award agreements for the full reconstruction of “A” Street and funding support for a replacement Fire Pumper Truck; seconded by Councilor Delgado. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

- E. Consideration and action to authorize the City Manager to utilize local and regional agency contracts with Holbrook Asphalt, Sunland Asphalt, and Via Sun Corp. to perform pavement work as part of the FY 17 maintenance program. (Public Works)

Management Administrator Nick Russo presented background for this request. The Mayor and Council identified a citywide pavement improvement program as a need in 2011. The Public Works Department developed a 30-year pavement maintenance program which was implemented in March 2012 and is currently in fiscal year six of the plan. The goals are to extend the life of the City streets with the main goal to preserve the pavement and prevent future deterioration. The worst streets are not always the highest priority. This project would enhance safety, quality, and community appearance, be cost efficient and reflect the Council’s priorities.

Mr. Russo explained the districts consist of 24 maintenance districts plus major streets. Neighborhoods and logistics are considered. The districts help develop a balanced budget from year to year. Year six milestones include arterial and collector street maintenance, crack sealing and striping updates with a schedule of doing the crack seal during January and February. Surface treatments would be done March, April and May. Types of treatments include surface treatment with PMM (Polymer Modified Microseal), Nova Bond, Liquid Road and TRMSS (Tire Rubber Modified Surface Seal) and crack sealing striping. Mr. Russo reviewed the locations and treatments necessary.

Staff is requesting approval to proceed with contract utilization for three contractors: Holbrook Asphalt (City of El Mirage, City of Mesa) for \$89,129.70; Sunland Asphalt (City of Buckeye) for \$671,690.08; and Via Sun Corp. (Pinal County) for \$97,691.47.

Mayor Mook asked if the pavement program in residential areas is working and Mr. Russo reported it is better than expected. Mayor Mook asked if other cities have followed our lead and Mr. Russo replied that the Town of Maricopa has piggybacked off our contract for HA5.

Councilor Jones stated the City experimented with the crack sealing and asked if the same was planned for 2017; Mr. Russo replied yes because it was so successful.

Councilor Shapera asked what should be expected regarding the cracks and Mr. Russo said cracks should be expected but the cycle for major repairs can be delayed. Councilor Shapera stated there are two very large cracks on 129th Avenue and Parque de Sol and Mr. Russo explained that a different process would be needed and they would be considering the master crack filler or cut joints on either side of the crack and then fill in with actual asphalt.

Councilor Delgado asked if the cracks were first blown out and was informed by Mr. Russo that the larger ones are blown out but if they are an inch or smaller they are just filled.

Vice Mayor Ramierz stated asphalt is unpredictable but the City's system is doing a great job by maintaining and keeping the roads usable a lot longer than others.

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to authorize the City Manager to utilize local and regional agency contracts with Holbrook Asphalt, Sunland Asphalt, and Via Sun Corp. to perform pavement work as part of the FY 17 maintenance program; seconded by Councilor Delgado. Motion carried unanimously (7/0) .

VI. CITY MANAGER SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

The City Council may not act upon any matter in the City Manager's summary but may have general comment or questions. Items to be discussed will include, but not be limited to, the following:

Dr. Isom commended Mr. Nilles and his staff for their preparation of the budget and audit report.

Dr. Isom reported that through a routine system audit, there are approximately 30 water accounts identified as incorrectly billed; a couple of the identified accounts belonged to the City. The identified meters read the consumption correctly but the register did not send the correct number of digits resulting in an under billing and residents received water not yet paid for. Letters will be going out to the affected customers this month to correct the issue. Any complaints should be referred to Deputy City Manager/Public Works Director Jim Shano.

1. New Employees – Court, Fire, Finance, Public Works

Director of Court Services Rod Wettlin introduced Maria Reyes, the new Judicial Assistant/Court Interpreter to insure that the Hispanic community is well represented on civil and criminal traffic cases. Maria Reyes stated she is happy to be here and happy to assist the community with the language barrier. Mr. Wettlin also introduced Cynthia Urzua-Acosta, the new Judicial Assistant who will be taking her Spanish test as well and will be working at the front window. Cynthia Urzua-Acosta stated she is pleased to join the City of El Mirage.

Fire Chief Jim Wise welcomed new Firefighters and introduced Captain Darryl Turpak who will be representing the department as a training officer. Firefighter Seth Proch, a Glendale native, is married with two kids and has been a Cadet with the City of El Mirage for a while. He says he is happy to be in the City of El Mirage. Firefighter Sheila Paine is married, the mother of four and working on her Associates degree. She is glad for the opportunity and looks forward to serving the community. Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Tomaselli has been in the Valley for nine years. He is married with three children and is very excited to be here. A friend of his who is an El Mirage Firefighter brought him here and he is very happy. Firefighter Corey Lydell, an Arizona native, has an extensive background in private industry security. He graduated from the Fire Academy in 2013 and is proud to be in the City of El Mirage and to have the opportunity to give back.

Deputy City Manager/Public Works Director James Shano introduced Scott Ketchmark as a Utilities Supervisor for Water and Sam Kawuki as Maintenance Worker I. He is excited to have two such qualified people to join his team. Mr. Ketchmark has 28 years' experience in water production, water treatment distribution, and wastewater collection. He has two adult children in the Phoenix area and his hobbies include sports, archery, hiking, camping and drag racing. Mr. Ketchmark thanked everyone for the opportunity and he looks forward to working with the utility team and to continue to operate with great customer service and exceptional quality water. Mr. Sam Kawuki was born in Uganda, Africa. He speaks five different languages and was a tour guide in national parks taking tourists out in trucks to see the wild animals who roam the African land. He has been in the United States for 11 years, is married and has four kids. He came to us from a local landscape contractor specializing in irrigation. Mr. Kawuki lives in El Mirage and is excited to be working here. Mr. Kawuki stated he is looking forward to serving the City of El Mirage.

2. Police Explorers – Report on Competition in Marana

Police Sgt. Chris Culp reported between October 7th and 9th, ten members of El Mirage Police Explorer Post #2780 attended the 4th annual 2016 Southern Arizona Law Enforcement Explorer Competition in Marana, Arizona. The U.S. Border Patrol Explorer Post (Tucson Sector) and Marana Police Explorer Post hosted the weekend-long event which was held at the Marana High School. The El Mirage explorers competed in the following scenarios: crime scene investigation, crisis negotiation, active shooter, tubular assault, traffic stop, tracking operations, officer down, Tactical Emergency Medical Service (TEMS), white collar crime, use of

force, report writing, court room testimony, aptitude test, and physical fitness courses.

On October 9th, the awards ceremony was held and the Police Department is are proud to report that City of El Mirage Explorers placed 2nd in Tubular Assault and 1st in male obstacle course. The competition had 14 explorer posts from Arizona, Texas, and California, with approximately 200 explorers and 50 advisors representing their perspective agencies, cities, counties and state.

The El Mirage Police Explorers continue to expand their knowledge and skills with their rigorous training provided by officers and advisors with the El Mirage Police Department. Throughout these competitions, the explorers have placed in various scenarios over the past three years and are constantly networking with other law enforcement explorer posts to enhance their training and teamwork skills.

The El Mirage Explorer Post 2780 extend their appreciation to the continued support of the El Mirage Police Department command staff, City Manager Dr. Isom, Mayor Mook, the city Council and Mr. Jimmy Farley from Coco's Towing.

Explorer Battalion Chief Rodriguez thanked everyone for allowing the program to continue. Two years ago, he did not know what he was expecting and today he finds that he has a lot of confidence and skills to guide him through high school and other events that need leadership.

Explorer Lieutenant Hailey Wheat thanked everyone for their support and encouragement with the Post which has helped Explorers attain their goals. She has had a great year with the Post and sees what the community needs and what the Explorer Post can do to help encourage others to become positive leaders.

Police Chief Terry McDonald pointed out a short time ago this program was just an idea and he congratulated Sgt. Culp for his excellent leadership. He has given a great deal of himself and it really shows.

3. Special Event – Christmas Tree Lighting 12/9/16

Public Relations Manager Amber Wakeman invited everyone to the El Mirage Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration on Friday, December 9th from 5:00-9:00 PM at Gentry Park. There will be free Santa photos, free giant Kid's Zone, 2 tons of real snow, free arts and crafts, music, food and vendors and free admission. She expressed thanks to Coco's Towing, Renewal by Anderson, APS, Parks & Sons and Walmart who sponsored the event.

VII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS and COUNCIL SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

The Mayor and City Council may not discuss or act upon any matter in the summary unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

There were no comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.



Lana Mook, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sharon Antes, City Clerk

I hereby certify the aforementioned minutes as a true and accurate record of the Work Session and Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 and a quorum was present.


Sharon Antes, City Clerk